

# REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

DCF-136  
04/2015 (Rev.)



**Careline**  
**1-800-842-2288**

**Within forty-eight hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit this form (DCF-136) to the relevant Area Office listed below**  
See the reverse side of this form for a summary of Connecticut law concerning the protection of children.

*Please print or type*

|  |  |                                    |  |  |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Child's Name   | <input type="checkbox"/> M<br><input type="checkbox"/> F | Age Or DOB                         | Race:<br><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native<br><input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander<br><input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic<br><input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| Child's Address  |  |                                    |  |  |
| Name Of Parents Or Other Person Responsible For Child's Care   |  | Address                            |  | Phone Number   |
| Name Of Careline Worker To Whom Oral Report Was Made   |  | Date Of Oral Report                | Date And Time Of Suspected Abuse/Neglect   |  |
| Name Of Suspected Perpetrator, If Known  |  | Address And Phone Number, If Known |  | Relationship To Child  |
| Nature And Extent Of Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect  |  |                                    |  |  |
| Describe The Circumstances Under Which The Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Came To Be Known   |  |                                    |  |  |
| Describe the Reasons Such Persons(s) Are Suspected of Causing Such Injuries, Maltreatment of Neglect   |  |                                    |  |  |
| Information Concerning Any Previous Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of The Child Or His/Her Siblings  |  |                                    |  |  |
| Information Concerning Any Prior Cases(s) In Which The Person(s) Have Been Suspected Of Causing An Injury(ies), Maltreatment Or Neglect Of A Child |  |                                    |  |  |
| List Names And Ages Of Siblings, If Known  |  |                                    |  |  |
| What Action, If Any, Has Been Taken To Treat, Provide Shelter Or Otherwise Assist The Child?   |  |                                    |  |  |

## REPORTER SECTION

|                            |  |           |              |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| Reporter's Name And Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native<br><input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander<br><input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American (not of Hispanic Origin)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic<br><input type="checkbox"/> White (not of Hispanic origin)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not to Answer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | Address : | Phone Number |
|                            |  | City:     |              |
| Reporter's Signature       |  | Position  | Date         |

**WHITE COPY: TO DCF AREA OFFICE (see below)**

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE, YOU MAY ATTACH MORE DOCUMENTATION**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Bridgeport</b><br>100 Fairfield Avenue<br>Bridgeport, CT 06604<br>203-384-5300<br>TDD: 203-384-5399<br>Fax: 203-384-5307 | <b>Danbury</b><br>131 West Street<br>Danbury, CT 06810<br>203-207-5100<br>TDD: 203-748-8325<br>Fax: 203-207-5170          | <b>Hartford</b><br>250 Hamilton Street<br>Hartford, CT 06106<br>860-418-8000<br>TDD: 800-315-4082<br>Fax: 860-418-8327    | <b>Manchester</b><br>364 West Middle Tnpk<br>Manchester, CT 06040<br>860-533-3600<br>TDD: 800-315-4415<br>Fax: 860-533-3750       | <b>Norwalk</b><br>761 Main Ave<br>Norwalk, CT 06821<br>203-899-1400<br>TDD: 203-899-1491<br>Fax: 203-899-1463, 203-899-1464 |
| <b>Meriden</b><br>One West Main Street<br>Meriden CT 06451<br>203-238-8400<br>TDD: 203-238-8517<br>Fax: 203-238-6287        | <b>Middletown</b><br>2081 South Main St<br>Middletown, CT 06457<br>860-638-2100<br>TDD: 860-638-2195<br>Fax: 860-346-2585 | <b>Milford</b><br>38 Wellington Road<br>Milford, CT 06461<br>203-306-5300<br>TDD: 203-306-5604<br>Fax: 203-777-4358       | <b>New Britain</b><br>One Grove Street, 4th Fl<br>New Britain, CT 06053<br>860-832-5200<br>TDD: 860-832-5370<br>Fax: 860-832-5318 | <b>New Haven</b><br>One Long Wharf Drive<br>New Haven, CT 06511<br>203-786-0500<br>TDD: 203-786-2599<br>Fax: 203-786-7457   |
| <b>Norwich</b><br>Two Courthouse Square<br>Norwich, CT 06360<br>860-886-2641<br>TDD: 860-885-2438<br>Fax: 860-885-1300      | <b>Torrington</b><br>62 Commercial Blvd<br>Torrington, CT 06790<br>860-496-5700<br>TDD: 860-496-5798<br>Fax: 860-496-5746 | <b>Waterbury</b><br>395 West Main Street<br>Waterbury, CT 06702<br>203-759-7000<br>TDD: 203-465-7329<br>Fax: 203-759-7296 | <b>Willimantic</b><br>322 Main Street<br>Willimantic, CT 06226<br>860-450-2000<br>TDD: 860-456-6603<br>Fax: 860-423-5034          |   |

## SUMMARY OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE/ NEGLECT

### PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT (C.G.S. §17a-101)

To protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect, investigation of such reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to such child and family.

### WHO IS MANDATED TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT?

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Battered Women's Counselors                        | Optometrists                           |
| Child Advocate and OCA employees                   | Mental Health Professionals            |
| Chiropractors                                      | Parole Officers (Juvenile or Adult)    |
| Dental Hygienists                                  | Persons Paid to Care for Children      |
| Dentists   | Persons who Provide Services to and    |
| Department of Children and Families Employees      | have Regular Contact with Students     |
| Office of Early Childhood Employees who are        | Pharmacists                            |
| Responsible for Licensing Day Cares and Camps      | Physical Therapists                    |
| Family Relations Counselors (Judicial Dept.)       | Physician Assistants                   |
| Family Rel. Counselor Trainees (Judicial Dept.)    | Podiatrists                            |
| Family Services Supervisors (Judicial Dept.)       | Police Officers                        |
| Licensed Foster Parents                            | Probation Officers (Juvenile or Adult) |
| Licensed Marital and Family Therapists             | Psychologists                          |
| Licensed or Unlicensed Interns at Any Hospital     | Registered Nurses                      |
| Licensed or Unlicensed Resident Physicians         | School Administrators                  |
| Licensed Physicians                                | School Coaches                         |
| Licensed Practical Nurses                          | School Guidance Counselors             |
| Licensed Professional Counselors                   | School Paraprofessionals               |
| Licensed Surgeons                                  | School Superintendents                 |
| Licensed/Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors     | School Teachers                        |
| Licensed/Certified Emergency Medical Svs Providers | Sexual Assault Counselors              |
| Medical Examiners                                  | Social Workers                         |
| Members of the Clergy                              | Substitute Teachers                    |

### DO THOSE MANDATED TO REPORT INCUR LIABILITY?

**No.** Any person, institution or agency which, in good faith, makes or does not make a report, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability provided such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect.

### IS THERE A PENALTY FOR NOT REPORTING?

**Yes.** Any person required to report who fails to do so may be prosecuted for a Class A misdemeanor and may be required to participate in an educational and training program. Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents a report may be prosecuted for a Class D felony.

### IS THERE A PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE REPORT?

**Yes.** Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect may be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both. The identity of such person shall be disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to the alleged perpetrator of the abuse.

### WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

- An oral report shall be made by a mandated reporter by telephone or in person to the DCF Careline or to a law enforcement agency as soon as practicable, but not later than 12 hours after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm. If a law enforcement agency receives an oral report, it shall immediately notify Careline. Oral reports to the Careline shall be recorded.
- Within 48 hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit a written report to the DCF Careline on the DCF-136, "Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect."
- When a mandated reporter is a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for children or a public or private school, the reporter shall also submit a copy of the written report to the person in charge of such institution, school or facility or the person's designee.

**DCF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CARELINE: 1-800-842-2288**

**STATUTORY REFERENCES: C.G.S. 17a-28, §17a-101 et seq.; §46b-120.**

## DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

**Abused Child:** Any child who has a non-accidental physical injury, or injuries which are at variance with the history given of such injuries, or is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

**Neglected Child:** Any child who has been abandoned or is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally or is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to his or her well-being.

**Exception:** The treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner shall not by itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.

**CHILD UNDER AGE 13 WITH VENEREAL DISEASE:** A physician or facility must report to Careline upon the consultation, examination or treatment for venereal disease of any child who has not reached his or her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### DO PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING?

**Yes.** Any person having reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of 18 is in danger of being abused or has been abused or neglected may cause a written or oral report to be made to the Careline or a law enforcement agency. Any person making the report in good faith is immune from any liability, civil or criminal. However, the person is subject to the penalty for making a false claim.

### WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)?

All child protective services in Connecticut are the responsibility of the Department of Children and Families.

Upon the receipt of a report of child abuse or neglect, the Careline shall cause the report to be classified, evaluated immediately and forwarded to the appropriate Area Office for the commencement of an investigation or for the provision of services within timelines specified by statute and policy.

If an investigation produces evidence of child abuse or neglect, DCF shall take such measures as it deems necessary to protect the child, and any other children similarly situated, including, but not limited to, immediate notification to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and the removal of the child from his or her home with or without the parents' consent consistent with state law.

If DCF has probable cause to believe that the child or any other child in the household is at imminent risk of physical harm from the surroundings, and that immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's safety, the Commissioner or designee shall authorize any employee of DCF or any law enforcement officer to remove the child and any other child similarly situated from such surroundings without the consent of the child's parent or guardian. The removal of a child shall not exceed 96 hours. If the child is not returned home within such 96-hour period, with or without protective services, DCF shall file a motion for temporary custody with the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.

### WHAT MEANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REMOVING A CHILD FROM HIS OR HER HOME?

- 96-Hour hold by the Commissioner of DCF or designee (see above).
- 96-Hour hold by a physician – Any physician examining a child with respect to whom abuse or neglect is suspected shall have the right to keep such child in the custody of a hospital for no longer than 96 hours in order to perform diagnostic tests and procedures necessary to the detection of child abuse or neglect and to provide necessary medical care with or without the consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care, provided the physician has made reasonable attempts to (1) advise such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care that the physician suspects the child has been abused or neglected, and (2) obtain consent of such child's parents or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. In addition, such physician may take or cause to be taken photographs of the area of trauma visible on a child who is the subject of such report without the consent of such child's parent's or guardian or other person responsible for the child's care. All such photographs or copies thereof shall be sent to the local police department and the Department of Children and Families.
- Bench order of temporary custody – Whenever any person is arrested and charged with an offense under Section 53-20 or 53-21 or under Part V, VI, or VII of Chapter 952, as amended, the victim of which offense was a minor residing with the defendant, any judge of the Superior Court may, if it appears that the child's condition or circumstances surrounding the case so require, issue an order to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to assume immediate custody of such child and, if the circumstances so require, any other children residing with the defendant and to proceed thereon as in other cases.

### WHAT IS THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

The Department of Children and Families maintains a registry of persons who have been substantiated as responsible for child abuse or neglect and pose a risk to the health safety or well-being of children. The Central Registry is available on a 24-hour daily basis to prevent or discover child abuse of children.